

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A horse-control device comprising:
a first nose band portion for extending over a horse's nose, the first nose band portion being formed of an elastomeric material; and
a second nose band portion formed of an a non-elastomeric material for extending over the horse's nose, the second nose band portion fitting substantially less tightly on the horse's nose than the first nose band portion such that when tension is applied to the first nose band portion to cause the first nose band portion to stretch, the second nose band portion is caused to apply pressure to the horse's nose.
2. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the first nose band portion has a smooth inner surface to engage the horse's nose and the second nose band portion has one or more protuberances that apply pressure to the horse's nose when tension is applied to the first nose band portion.
3. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the first and second nose band portions are removable from the device.
4. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, further comprising a first cheek piece and a second cheek piece, the first and second cheek pieces being positioned on opposite sides of the horse's head, the first and second nose band portions being coupled to and extending between the cheek pieces.
5. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 4, wherein the first nose band portion has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion having a first connection member that is coupled to the first cheek piece, the second end portion having a second connection member that is coupled to the second cheek piece.
6. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 5, wherein each connection member is connectable to and disconnectable from a respective cheek piece.

7. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 4, wherein the second nose band portion has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion having a first connection member that is removably connected to the first cheek piece, the second end portion having a second connection member that is removably connected to the second cheek piece.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the first nose band portion comprises rubber.

10. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the second nose band portion comprises a chain.

11. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the first nose band portion comprises a rubber strap and the second nose band portion comprises a chain or rope.

12. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the first nose band portion is positioned higher on the horse's nose relative to the second nose band portion.

13. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, wherein the length of the second nose band portion is adjustable to vary the amount of pressure that the second nose band portion applies to the horse's nose.

14. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 13, wherein the length of the second nose band portion can be adjusted by changing the configuration of the second nose band portion.

15. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 1, further comprising:
an elongated chin strap for extending under the horse's muzzle;
an elongated poll strap for extending across the horse's poll; and

first and second, elongated connector straps positioned on opposite sides of the horse's head, each of the connector straps having a rear end portion and a forward end portion, the poll strap being coupled to the rear end portions, while the first nose band portion, the second nose band portion, and the chin strap are coupled to the forward end portions, so as to form a halter.

16. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 15, wherein the poll strap comprises a flexible outer covering and a cable enclosed in the outer covering, the cable applying pressure to the horse's poll whenever tension applied to the halter causes the poll strap to bear against the poll.

17-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A horse-control device comprising:
a resilient biasing member formed of an elastomeric material extending over a horse's nose;
and
a substantially non-resilient nose band formed of ~~an~~ a non-elastomeric material extending over the horse's nose;
wherein, when tension is applied to the biasing member, the biasing member stretches across the horse's nose and the nose band engages and applies pressure to the horse's nose, and when tension on the biasing member is removed, the biasing member contracts and the nose band immediately reduces the pressure applied to the horse's nose.

23. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, wherein the nose band has one or more protuberances that apply concentrated pressure to the horse's nose.

24. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, further comprising a first cheek piece and a second cheek piece, the first and second cheek pieces being positioned on opposite sides of the horse's head, the biasing member and the nose band being coupled to and extending between the cheek pieces.

25. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, wherein the nose band comprises a

chain having plural interlocking links.

26. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, wherein the biasing member is shorter in length than the nose band when tension is not applied to the biasing member.

27. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, wherein the nose band is dimensioned such that it rests loosely on the horse's nose when tension is not applied to the biasing member.

28. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, wherein the length of the nose band is adjustable to vary the amount of pressure applied to the horse's nose.

29. (Original) The horse-control device of claim 22, further comprising a poll strap for extending across the horse's poll, the poll strap being coupled to the biasing member and the nose band, the poll strap comprising an outer sheath and a cable enclosed in the outer sheath, the cable creating a protrusion along the length of the poll strap to apply pressure to the horse's poll when a downward force is applied to the horse control device.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a horse comprising applying tension to a first, resilient nose band formed of an elastomeric material extending over the horse's nose, so as to cause a second nose band formed of ~~an~~ a non-elastomeric material to apply pressure to the horse's nose.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising removing tension from the first nose band, so as to cause the second nose band to immediately release pressure on the horse's nose.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The horse-control device of claim 4, wherein each of the first

and second nose band portions have opposite ends connected to the first and second cheek pieces.

35. (Previously Presented) The horse-control device of claim 15, further comprising a lead line connected to the chin strap, wherein application of tension on the lead line causes the first nose band portion to stretch, which in turn causes the second nose band portion to apply pressure to the horse's nose.